

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1 (Currently amended): A football training device for use with football helmets and shoulder pads ~~for detachably connecting a football player's helmet to said player's shoulder pads and reducing the ability of said player to lower his head while wearing said device, said device~~ comprising:

(a) a ~~length~~ substantially T-shaped piece of resilient material of predetermined length, ~~adequate to connect the rear portion of said helmet to a rear portion of said shoulder pads; and wherein the~~ substantially T-shaped piece of resilient material further comprises:

(i) an elongated portion, wherein the elongated portion further comprises a first attachment member; and

(ii) a crossbar portion, wherein the crossbar portion further comprises a second attachment member and a third attachment member; and

(b) ~~a means for detachably connecting said length of resilient material to both said helmet and said shoulder pads~~ the first attachment member to a football helmet, a means for detachably connecting the second attachment member to a left shoulder pad, and a means for detachably connecting the third attachment member to a right shoulder pad.

2 (Currently amended): The training device of claim 1, wherein the length of ~~said~~ the device is about 16.0 inches (40.6 cm) and wherein the widest portion of ~~said~~ the device is about 7.0 inches (17.8 cm).

3 (Canceled)

4 (Currently amended): The training device of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the resilient material is plastic, polymer, vinyl, polyurethane, rubber, or combinations thereof.

5 (Currently amended): The training device of claim 1, wherein ~~said each connecting means for detachably connecting said length of resilient material to both said helmet and said shoulder pads~~ further comprises ~~VELCRO® strips mounted on the rear portion of said helmet and said shoulder pads and on the underside of said training device in locations corresponding to the positioning of said strips on said helmet and said shoulder pads~~ a first piece of fabric having hooks and a second piece of fabric having loops, wherein the hooks engage the loops to hold the pieces of fabric together.

6 (Currently amended): The training device of claim 1, wherein ~~said each connecting means for detachably connecting said length of resilient material to both said helmet and said shoulder pads~~ further comprises a plurality of snaps ~~mounted on the rear portion of said helmet and said shoulder pads and on said training device in locations corresponding to the positioning of said snaps on said helmet and said shoulder pads.~~

7 (Currently amended): The training device of claim 1, wherein ~~said the device is packaged in a kit, and wherein the kit further comprises a plurality of adhesive templates for properly locating the device on the helmet and the shoulder pads. , and where said kit further comprises a means for detachably connecting said length of resilient material to both said helmet and said shoulder pads, and wherein said attachment means further comprises a plurality of VELCRO® strips.~~

8-12 (Canceled)